

# Busboy set hotel fire

LAS VEGAS, Nev. (AP) — A busboy arrested in the arson fire at the Las Vegas Hilton has confessed he started the fire while engaged in a homosexual act in an eighth floor elevator lobby, a detective said at a news conference Thursday.

Lt. John Conner, chief of the Metropolitan Police Department's homicide division, said Philip Bruce Cline told officers that during the

homosexual act with a man identified only as "Joe," a drape was lighted accidentally by a marijuana cigarette.

The ensuing fire in the 30-story hotel killed eight people and injured 198 others.

"He indicated he had been on the eighth floor and had been with another homosexual and was engaged in a homosexual act when the draperies were set on fire next to the elevator,"

Conner said. "He says it was lighted by a marijuana cigarette."

Cline "says it's accidental," Conner said, but he added: "We are pursuing the arson investigation. The Fire Department says it's arson."

The lieutenant said he didn't know how the other three fires at the Hilton might have started. The 23-year-old Cline first told detectives he had tried to put out the fire, Conner said.

"He said he had been picking up trays from room service from the 29th floor down, but when we checked later — after the fire — the trays and glasses were still in the hallways," Conner said.

"We are satisfied he is the man who set the fires," Conner added.

Cline's father, 50-year-old retired Air Force Master Sgt. Robert Cline of Sunnymead, Calif., said he was "surprised" about the allegations regarding his son.

Cline said his son had never finished the ninth grade, was often in juvenile hall for truancy and received psychiatric treatment in 1972 and 1973. Cline said his son left home about five years ago and went to work in Michigan. He apparently arrived in Las Vegas early last year, Conner said.

## making the news

From Associated Press Reports

**BULAWAYO, Zimbabwe — Prime Minister Robert Mugabe on Thursday ordered his former foes, the white-officered regular army and air force, to smash mutinous ex-guerrilla forces loyal to Joshua Nkomo, a minister in Mugabe's government.**

The rebellious former guerrillas, who were allied with Mugabe's forces in the 7-year-war that brought his coalition to power, are acting against the orders of their leaders, including Nkomo, the prime minister said.

"I am determined to descend on them like a hammer," Mugabe told the Zimbabwe House of Assembly in Salisbury. He spoke after six days of fighting between former guerrillas loyal to him and the forces led in the war by Nkomo, a sometimes uneasy partner in Mugabe's 10-month-old coalition.

**WARSAW, Poland — Gen. Wojciech Jaruzelski, Poland's new premier, appealed to workers Thursday for "90 peaceful days," warning that continued unrest could pitch Poland into civil war. He also reshuffled the government's top echelon and announced a 10-point program to tackle the economic emergency.**

Jaruzelski named five new Cabinet ministers and two new vice premiers in the sixth purge of government leaders since last summer's strikes that spawned independent unionism. He outlined an economic plan to deal with complaints on food and housing shortages, but called for worker discipline and improved productivity.

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